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ABSTRACT

Since the author felt that junior college athletic awards should not necessarily follow senior college practices, he conducted a survey. He sought the opinion of 110 athletes, coaches, and athletic directors. Of the 80 replies, he tabulated 25 from each category of respondent. On nine statements, they agreed, disagreed, or held no opinion. After examining the replies, the author recommended that (1) 2-year colleges should give awards to athletes only on intercollegiate teams: (2) the first award should be chenille letter, with a small letter for those not meeting the criteria for a major letter; (3) a certificate, stating the nature of the award, should go with each one; (4) a second-year award in the same sport should be a plaque; (5) an award should cost less than $5.00; (6) after consulting the athletic director or written criteria and after making his criteria known, the coach alone should determine which members of his team receive awards; (7) the coach should treat disciplinary problems individually, according to the severity of the offense and whether it was committed on or off the campus; (8) the number of awards should not be predetermined. The practices followed at the author's own college (Staten Island) are described. (HH)

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A SURVEY OF:

INTERCOLLEGIATE AWARDS FOR ATHLETES AT TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

JC 690 379

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Staten Island Community College

INTERCOLLEGIATE AWARDS FOR ATHLETES AT TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

A. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The problem of giving careful attention to the development of guidelines for athletic awards which can reflect the unique function of the two year colleges has, in some instances, been impeded by the varied problems associated with their phenomenal growth in recent years. For example, restrictions on the time of those responsible for administering intercollegiate programs have frequently encouraged administrators toward unwarranted dependence on traditional criteria and practices of the senior colleges. It should be noted that a considerable diversity exists among the senior college guidelines for identifying excellence in athletic competence.

The purpose of this survey was to solicit the judgement of those most closely involved with two year intercollegiate athletic programs. An additional purpose was to present the results in such a way that those who administer such programs might better ascertain trends in developing policies at institutions similar to their own. This study of trends in athletic awards is limited to intercollegiate athletics. This study

does not include awards made in other two-year college functions such as intramural programs, clubs, and special departmental awards.

B. METHOD

Opinions were solicited from athletes, coaches and athletic directors from Region XV and Region XIX of the National Junior College Athletic Association (N.J.C.A.A.).

One hundred and ten (110) persons were requested to fill out and return forms. Eighty persons returned the forms completed. The first twenty-five replies (25) from athletic directors, coaches, and athletes were tabulated. (Total of 75 tabulations)

Respondents were asked to indicate one of five opinions:

a. Strongly agree

b. Agree

c. Disagree

d. Strongly disagree

e. No opinion

In an effort to provide tables which would be easier to comprehend, the results of a and b were combined and recorded as affirmative opinions and c and d were combined and recorded as negative opinions. Notations on strong opinions are indicated in the section on remarks following the tabulations of the nine statements polled. Whenever a respondent failed to indicate a preference, a "no opinion" response was recorded.

C. TABULATIONS:

Table #1 Two-Year Colleges should provide awards for athletes:

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
74	0	1

Table #2 The first award to an athlete should be:

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
a. Letter(chenille)	70	1	4
b. Medal	17	20	38
c. Trophy	22	18	35
d. Plaque	20	15	40
e. Pin(minature)	15	21	44
f. Certificate	35	15	25

Table #3 A Second Year Award in the same sport should be:

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
a. Letter(chenille)	25	23	27
b. Medal	21	7	47
c. Trophy	29	6	40
d. Plaque	53	3	19
e. Pin(minature)	19	13	43
f. Certificate	28	9	38

Table #4 Awards Should Cost Less than $5.00 (Five Dollars)

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
43	18	14

TABULATIONS (con't.)

Table #5 Determination of Students to receive awards should be made by:

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
a. Coach	61	1	13
b. Athletic Director	20	17	37
c. Written Criteria	25	27	23

Table #6 An athlete who has been a disciplinary problem at the college should be denied an award:

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
34	20	21

Table #7 An athlete who has been a disciplinary problem outside the college should be denied an award:

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
22	27	26

Table #8 There should be a specific predetermined number of awards for each sport:

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
21	49	5

Table #9A There should be a minor award (for a team member not deserving a "full" award):

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
47	19	10

TABULATIONS (con't.)

Table #9B Minor Awards should be:

	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
a. Small Letter(chenille)	30	2	43
b. Small Numeral	13	8	54
c. Certificate	29	3	43

D. FINDINGS:

Table #1: There were 74 affirmative responses which makes this opinion conclusive.

Table #2: Item 2A revealed 70 affirmative replies, 1 negative and 4 No Opinions.
Items 2B thru 2E presented mixed reactions from all three groups surveyed (Athletic Director, Coaches, and Athletes). There was no general trend among the three categories.
Item 2F had 35 affirmative and only 15 negative responses. The responses were in proportional agreement among the three groups polled. Although the affirmative responses were not as numerous as 2A, there was a definite trend.

Table #3: Although there were only three opinions against plaques as a second year award in the same sport, the strength of concurring opinions was not similar. 13 athletes had strong opinions while only 6 athletic directors had strong opinions. Coaches had 10 strong opinions. Plaques had 53 positive responses while Trophies had 29 favorable responses. Certificates had 28 and medals 21 favorable responses. Several people felt Blazers, Blankets or Sweaters should be awarded.

D. FINDINGS: (con't.)

Table #4: 19 Athletic Directors and 17 Coaches agreed that awards should cost less than $5.00. Only 7 athletes agreed with the coaches and athletic directors but it is interesting to note that none of the seven athletes had strong feelings.

Table #5: Item 5A - 61 affirmative responses stating that the coach should determine which students ought to receive awards. 47 of the 61 responses were strongly opinionated. There were no strong opinions negative to the coaches and only 1 person felt that the coach should not determine award winners.

Item 5B - had 3 strong responses in favor of athletic directors and 8 strong responses against athletic directors determining award winners. Overall, there were 20 affirmative and 17 negative responses.

Item 5C - indicated no discernible trend.

Table #6 and
Table #7: These two questions evoked many remarks and many "No Opinion" responses. The remarks generally reflected the feeling that before an answer could be given, the reader would require further information in relation to the disciplinary problem. A typical question which was asked was, "It depends on what the student did?"

Table #8: Athletes, Coaches and Athletic Directors had similar opinions about having a predetermined number of awards for each sport. There were 49 opinions that felt that there should be no predetermined numbers.

Table #9A: Athletes, coaches and Athletic Directors agreed in a similar trend 49 to 17 in favor of having minor awards.

Table #9B: There were a high number of "No Opinions". There was almost an identical response favorable to "small letters"as there was for "certificates".

E. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS:

The following general trends seem to be evident:

1. Two-year colleges should provide awards for athletes on intercollegiate teams.

2. The first award to an athlete should be a chenille letter. A "minor" award (small letter) should be awarded to athletes who do not meet the criteria for a "major" letter.

3. A certificate should be given with every award. The certificate should state the nature of the award presented, (minor letter, major letter or 2nd Year award).

4. The second year award in the same sport should be a plaque, (certificate too!).

5. Awards should cost less than $5.00.

6. A coach should determine which members of his team will receive awards. He can consult written criteria and Athletic Director for guidance. He should make his criteria known to team members.

7. A coach should treat disciplinary problems on an individual basis in determining whether athletes guilty of infractions or offenses "on" or "off" campus receive awards.

8. There should be no predetermined number of awards. A coach can be guided by previous awards but should have a good deal of flexibility.

F. EVALUATION:

1. Staten Island Community College has adopted the following:

   a. "Minor" Awards (small chenille letter) (less than $2.00)
   b. "Major" Awards (large chenille letter) (less than $2.00)
   c. 2nd Year Award (Plaque) (less than $4.00)

F. EVALUATION (con't.)

d. Certificates accompany all awards.

e. Coach determines award winners and number of winners. (Athletic Director gives guidance)

f. Special Awards (2 trophies for each team for most valuable player, most improved player or for sportsmanship.) These special awards were not included in survey. (cost approximately $5.00)

2. Administrators, coaches and athletes have expressed favorable reactions.

3. All awards are to be presented at an Awards Banquet to be held after final exams in June.

SUBMITTED BY: NICHOLAS FARKOUH
(JUNE, 1969)

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